

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 539

To designate certain National Forest System land in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 2, 2005

Mr. FORTUÑO (for himself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. GUTIERREZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To designate certain National Forest System land in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Caribbean National
5 Forest Act of 2005”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) MAP.—The term “map” means the map
2 dated April 13, 2004, and entitled “El Toro Pro-
3 posed Wilderness Area”.

4 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
5 the Secretary of Agriculture.

6 **SEC. 3. WILDERNESS DESIGNATION, CARIBBEAN NATIONAL**
7 **FOREST, PUERTO RICO.**

8 (a) EL TORO WILDERNESS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—In furtherance of the pur-
10 poses of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1113 et
11 seq.), the approximately 10,000 acres of land in the
12 Caribbean National Forest/Luquillo Experimental
13 Forest in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico de-
14 scribed in the map are designated as wilderness and
15 as a component of the National Wilderness Preser-
16 vation System.

17 (2) DESIGNATION.—The land designated in
18 paragraph (1) shall be known as the El Toro Wilder-
19 ness.

20 (3) WILDERNESS BOUNDARIES.—The El Toro
21 Wilderness shall consist of the land described in the
22 map.

23 (b) MAP AND BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after
2 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
3 shall—

4 (A) prepare a boundary description of the
5 El Toro Wilderness; and

6 (B) submit the map and the boundary de-
7 scription to the Committee on Energy and Nat-
8 ural Resources of the Senate and the Com-
9 mittee on Resources of the House of Represent-
10 atives.

11 (2) PUBLIC INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.—
12 The map and the boundary description prepared
13 under paragraph (1)(A)—

14 (A) shall be on file and available for public
15 inspection in the office of the Chief of the For-
16 est Service; and

17 (B) shall have the same force and effect as
18 if included in this Act.

19 (3) ERRORS.—The Secretary may correct cler-
20 ical and typographical errors in the map and the
21 boundary description prepared under paragraph
22 (1)(A).

23 (c) ADMINISTRATION.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing
25 rights, the Secretary shall administer the El Toro

1 Wilderness in accordance with the Wilderness Act
2 (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) and this Act.

3 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE OF WILDERNESS ACT.—

4 With respect to the El Toro Wilderness, any ref-
5 erence in the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et
6 seq.) to the effective date of that Act shall be
7 deemed to be a reference to the date of the enact-
8 ment of this Act.

9 (d) SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS.—Con-
10 sistent with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.),
11 nothing in this Act precludes the installation and mainte-
12 nance of hydrologic, meteorological, climatological, or at-
13 mospheric data collection and remote transmission facili-
14 ties, or any combination of those facilities, in any case in
15 which the Secretary determines that the facilities are es-
16 sential to the scientific research purposes of the Luquillo
17 Experimental Forest.

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